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(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative whether he will be pleased to place it on the table of the House; and

(*c*) whether the Government of Madras have expressed their views on the said report; and if so, what they are?

A.—As the hon. Member is aware 'Emigration' is a central subject The report referred to has not been received. There has been correspondence between the Government of India and the local Government on the question of the fixation of standard rates of wages for Indian labourers in Malaya, but the Government are not prepared to place it on the table.

Mr. C. GOPAL MENON:—"May I know whether the report of the Standard Wages Enquiry Committee has not been published or whether this Government has not received the report yet?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Notice, Sir."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"May I know why the Government say that they are not prepared to place the report on the table of the House?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have already answered that question."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"I want a reply to this question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know what are the reasons for the Government to say that they decline to place on the table the correspondence between this Government and the Government of India on the Standard Wages Enquiry Committee?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have already said, it is a confidential matter. As the hon. the President has suggested, I may say that it is undesirable to disclose it on public grounds."

Mr. S SATYAMURTI:—"May I know what are the public interests that will be adversely affected by placing this correspondence on the table of the House?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have already answered it."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA:—"May I know whether the correspondence between the Government of India and this Government on the fixation of standard rates of wages to the labourers in Malaya has been kept confidential in the interests of the planters?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"No, Sir."

Labour

Economic condition of labourers in plantations.

*1277 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what steps are being taken in view of the repeal of the Madras Planters' Labour Act for enquiring into and ascertaining the condition and the amenities of life of the labour population recruited for the plantations in the districts of Malabar, Coimbatore and Nilgiris and for bringing forward the necessary legislation to secure for them the same?

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A.—The Government do not consider it necessary to take any steps in the matter at present.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I know whether the Government assured themselves that the conditions of labourers in these districts were satisfactory?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"At present the Government do not consider that any legislation is necessary."

Motor Vehicles Act

Pay and income of motor inspectors in the Presidency.

* 1278 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to my question No. 198 answered on 6th September 1928, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to place before the Council a statement showing—

(i) the number, status, antecedents, pay and income of officers performing the function of inspectors of buses in the Madras City and in various other places in the Presidency; and

(ii) the receipts of fees for inspection for the year ending the 30th June 1928 and for the year ending the 30th September 1928, if available?

A.—(i) & (ii) A statement [a] containing the information called for by the hon. Member in question No. 198 is laid on the table. Information for the year ending the 30th September 1928 is not available.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I just refer to a statement at page 52 as it is somewhat puzzling, and ask a few questions? May I know why in the first instance Government appointed District officers as inspectors of buses and afterwards gave up that scheme and created posts of bus inspectors?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"At first we appointed some District officers as bus inspectors but we are now appointing as far as possible inspectors of motor buses."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"In column 5 of the statement we find that the emoluments of an officer performing the functions of inspector of buses are Rs. 900. May I know what these emoluments are, whether they are monthly or for a certain period?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I want notice."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"Why such high emoluments are paid to people who are already getting very high salaries?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"The present policy of the Government is to appoint bus inspectors."

[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 643-645 infra.